

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification at pages 1 and 2, applicant requests that the title identified as "Interconnect Routing For Head Gimbal Assembly" be replaced with the following paragraph:

~~Interconnect Routing For Head Gimbal Assembly~~ Laminate Load Beam With Interconnect Routing

Replace the paragraph beginning at Page 7, line 23 with the following:

As the disc drive system 300 operates, ~~disc 312~~ disc 310 rotates and induces airflow that includes a radial component (applied in a direction A shown in FIG. 2) and a tangential component (in a direction perpendicular to a primary surface of disc 310). As a result of the combined components, strong currents are created, and the resulting airflow causes windage-induced vibration of the suspension assembly 324. The effects of the windage-induced vibration cause the head 322 to vibrate, thus affecting the vertical

Replace the paragraph beginning at Page 8, line 7 with the following:

Disc drive system 300 also includes interconnect assembly 344 to complete the electrical connection between the head 322 and the control circuitry 360. Preferably, the interconnect assembly 344 is a flex-on suspension, or flex circuit made from a polyamide substrate, with manufacturing techniques for flex circuits being well known in the art. Interconnect assembly 344 includes a head portion 341, a tail portion 343, and electrical conductors 346 (see FIG. 3) that extend from the head 322 to the control circuitry 360 and electrically transmits electrical signals between the head 322 and the control circuitry 360. Preferably, the tail portion 343 extends along the leeward edge 352 of the suspension assembly 324. FIGs. 3 and 5A-F show the tail portion 343 extending along an opposing side of the interconnect ~~assembly 324~~ assembly 344 as compared to the arrangement shown in FIG. 2. However, this merely illustrates that the interconnect tail can be positioned on either side of the

interconnect assembly depending on the orientation of the suspension assembly relative to the center of the disc, so long as the interconnect tail is on the leeward side.

Replace the paragraph beginning at Page 10, line 2 with the following:

Referring to FIGS. 4 and 5A-F, one example method of forming a suspension assembly having an interconnect assembly with a reduced exposed area is illustrated. A sheet of stock material, for example, a sheet of laminate material or layers of a sheet of laminate material, may be etched (400) to form a load beam (402). A trenching arrangement in the load beam may be preformed using techniques known to one of skill in the art. A gimbal assembly may be coupled to the load beam (404) using techniques known to one of skill in the art, such as welding or gluing. The interconnect assembly is then located in the trenching arrangement and secured into place (406). The interconnect assembly is also electrically connected to the heads on the gimbal assembly. The interconnect is located between the base plate and the top layer of the load beam and a base plate is coupled to the load beam (408). The PZTs may then be attached to the suspension assembly (410). The outer portion of the interconnect assembly may then be folded over and welded to the PZTs (412) ~~PZTs (414)~~. A pre-load force may then be applied in the finished assembly (414) ~~assembly (412)~~ by adding a bend at a bend section of the load beam.